

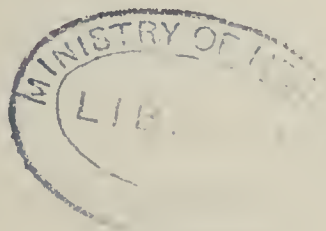
NORTH WALSHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1953

ANNUAL REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



G. R. Holtby, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H.

MEMBERS OF NORTH WALSHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

as at 31st December, 1953.

CHAIRMAN. Mr. F. J. Bloom, J.P.

VICE
CHAIRMAN. Mr. E. W. Harmer.

MEMBERS. Miss. E. Lamb.
Mr. H. J. Bickerton.
Mr. R. J. Davison.
Mr. F. R. Davison.
Mr. F. E. Edwards.
Mr. C. Greengrass.
Mr. C. Smith.
Mr. N. Stanley.
Mr. E. G. Vincent.
Mr. R. J. Wall.
Mr. J. D. Youngman.

OFFICERS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Dr. W. Aitchison, M.C., M.A., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.,
D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (to 4.8.53.)

Dr. G.R. Holtby, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.I.H. (from 31.10.53.)

SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR.

John A. Yates, M.I.Mun.E., M.S.I.A.

To: The Chairman and Members of the North Walsham U.D.C.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1953.

This is the sixth Annual Report to be presented since the coming into force of the National Health Service Act (1946).

The town was fortunate in that no damage was caused during the great flood of January. An offer was made to the Smallburgh R.D.C. of two houses for the accommodation of refugees from that authority and this offer was gratefully accepted. Two North Walsham families were later rehoused in Smallburgh Rural District.

Two important measures for the health of the town were completed during the year. The re-designed Sewage Disposal Works were formally opened by E.G.Gooch, Esq., M.P., during August, and this led to an immediate improvement in the quality of effluent discharged. At the end of the year one obsolete water tower was replaced by a modern higher level one of greater capacity. It was formally opened by the Chairman of the Sheringham U.D.C. on the 30th November.

The Registrar General estimated your mid-year population as 4,716 compared with 4,610 in 1952. The excess of births over deaths was 16. Thus, apart from this natural increase, the population increased by 90.

The review of the Health and Vital Statistics for 1953 is very satisfactory when one considers that a considerable portion of the population consists of elderly people. The crude birth rate for the year is 13.78 per thousand of the population, compared with 15.5 for England and Wales. The total number of deaths from all causes assigned to the district is 49, corresponding to a crude death rate of 10.4 per thousand, compared with 11.4 for England and Wales. By use of the Comparability Factors supplied by the Registrar General, the purpose of which is to modify the above rates to those of a population with the age and sex distribution of the country as a whole, they become - Birth rate 15.16 and Death rate 7.70. The principle causes of death were Cardio-Vascular Disease and Cancer.

There were no epidemics of infectious disease although there were a number of cases of whooping cough. Immunisation against whooping cough is now carried out by General Practitioners, the immunising agent being frequently combined with that used for protection against diphtheria. Immunisation should be carried out in the early months of life, as the complications of whooping cough - particularly the lung complications - are most dangerous during the first year.

It is a pleasure to report that there were again no deaths under the heading of Maternal Mortality. The two deaths under the heading of Infantile Mortality were due to - in one case prematurity, and in the other congenital malformation. Once again thanks are due to the Midwives, Health Visitors and District Nurses for their efficient services.

At the end of the year there was a waiting list of 110 for new Council Houses. 41 houses were completed and 61 were in the course of completion at the beginning of 1954. The town is to be congratulated on the scheme for the provision of bungalows for old people, a very valuable Public Health measure, which should be completed during 1954. The general standard of houses in the district is fairly satisfactory, but there are cases of buildings which will have to be dealt with under the Housing Acts.

North Walsham Urban District is included with Smallburgh Rural District and Blofield & Flegg Rural District to form No. 1. Area of Norfolk County Council for the purpose of carrying out the duties for which the County Health Authority has accepted responsibility under the National Health Service Act, 1946. These include the care of Mothers and Young Children, Midwifery Service, Health Visiting Service, Home Nursing Service, Vaccination and Immunisation, Prevention of Illness Care and Aftercare, Domestic Health Service and Mental Health Service. Some of these services along with the School Service in the area are the responsibility of the Area Medical Officer, who also acts as Medical Officer of Health of the three County Districts comprising Area No. 1 referred to above.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Council for their kindness in welcoming me to the District. Thanks are also due to the Clerk for his helpful service and to the Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor and other officers for their willing co-operation in the running of the Department.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. H. H. H.

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

AREA - (in acres) 4,252. The District consists of the town of North Walsham with a surrounding District entirely rural in character with Agriculture and Dairy Farming as the main industries. The town is probably one of the most conveniently situated Market Towns in Norfolk and by virtue of its fine position it is ~~the town~~ extremely healthy. Subsoil is of sand and gravel and receives the bracing air from the sea which is so close at hand.

POPULATION. The Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1953 to be 4,716.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES. According to the Rate Book, the number of Inhabited Houses in the District is 1,616, the Rateable Value being £26,734. The sum represented by a Penny Rate is £104. 0.0.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres.....	4,252.
Population (Registrar General's Mid-June estimate).....	4,716.
No. of Inhabited Houses (1953) according to ratebook.....	1,616.
Rateable Value	£26,734.
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£104.

<u>LIVE BIRTHS.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Rate per Thousand</u>	<u>Rate England & Wales.</u>
Legitimate	60	30	30	13.78	15.5
Illegitimate.....	5	3	2		
	<u>65</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>32</u>		

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	-	-	-	0.00	0.35
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-		
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		

<u>DEATHS.</u> (All causes).....	49	22	27	10.4	11.4
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<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Rate per Thousand Live Births</u>	<u>Rate England & Wales</u>
Legitimate	2	2	-	30.77	26.8.
Illegitimate.....	-	-	-		

<u>DEATHS FROM SPECIAL DISEASES.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female</u>
Measles (all ages).....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough (all ages).....	-	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-	-
Cancer (all ages).....	12	5	7
Tuberculosis (all ages).....	-	-	-

Birth Rate, Death Rate, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal
Death Rate and Case Rates for Certain Infections Diseases
in the year 1953.

	England & Wales	North Walsham U.D.C.
Rates per 1,000 Population.		
<u>Births.</u>		
Live	15.5	13.78
Still.....	0.35	0.00
<u>Deaths.</u>		
All Causes	11.4	10.4.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.00
Influenza	0.16	0.21
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis).....	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia (Broncho)	0.55	0.21
<u>Notifications (corrected)</u>		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.39	1.48
Whooping Cough	3.58	21.84
Diphtheria	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Measles	12.36	0.64
Pneumonia	0.34	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)		
Paralytic	0.07	0.21
Non-paralytic	0.04	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.00
Puerperal Pyrexia	18.23(a)	30.77

Rates per 1,000 Live Births

<u>Deaths</u>		
All causes under 1 year of age	26.8(b)	30.77(b)
Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1.1	0.00

(a) per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births

(b) per 1,000 related live births.

Maternal Mortality.

England
& Wales.

North Walsham
U.D.C

International List number
and causes.

Rates per 1,000 total (Live
& Still) Births.

A. 115	Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.	0.10	Nil.
A.116	(Abortion with toxæmia (Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium)	0.01	Nil.
A. 117	Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth.	0.24	Nil.
A.118	Abortion with mention of sepsis or toxæmia.	0.13	Nil.
A.119	Abortion with sepsis	0.04	Nil.
A.120	Other Complications of pregnancy childbirth and the puerperium.	0.06	Nil.
		0.18	Nil.

Individual Causes of Death.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis - respiratory	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - other	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease.....	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection.....	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm of stomach.....	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm of Lungs & Bronchus	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm of breast.....	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	5	10
Leukaemia aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	-	3	3
Coronary disease - angina ,,,.....	3	4	7
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
Other heart disease	4	3	7
Other circulatory diseases	1	3	4
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia ,.....	-	1	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other disease of respiratory system .	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hypertasia of prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	1	-	1
Other defined & all defined diseases	4	3	7
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and operation of war	-	-	-
All causes	22	27	49

Infantile Mortality During the Year 1953.

Causes of Death.	Total									
	Under 1 wk.	1-2 wks.	2-3 wks.	3-4 wks.	under 1 mth.	1-3 mths.	3-6 mths.	6-9 mths.	9-12 mths.	
Convulsions.										
Gastro-enteritis.										
Bronchitis (acute)										
Pneumonia (primary)										
Bronchopneumonia.										
Prematurity.	1				1					
Intra Cranial.										
Haemorrhage.										
Asphyxia.										
Congenital anaemia.										
Congenital malforma- tion.	1				1					
Haematemesis										
Totals.	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-

Vital Statistics of the District for 1953 and previous years
Comparative Table with England and Wales for past ten years.

Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 population.		Death Rate per 1,000 population.		Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Birth.	
	England & Wales	N.Walsham U.D.C.	England & Wales.	N.Walsham U.D.C.	England & Wales.	N.Walsham U.D.C.
1944)	Records not available.					
1945)						
1946	19.1	18.2	11.5	15.4	43.0	50.64.
1947	20.5	19.1	12.0	19.3	41.0	54.00
1948	17.9	16.3	10.8	13.2	34.0	54.00
1949	16.7	16.5	11.7	13.9	32.0	Nil.
1950	15.8	15.5	11.6	11.1	29.8	13.7
1951	15.5	10.2	12.5	10.7	29.4	27.4
1952	15.3	12.58	11.3	14.32	27.6	Nil.
1953	15.5	13.78	11.4	10.4	26.8	30.77

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

1. Medical Officer of Health:-

Dr. W. Aitchison, M.C., M.A., B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
D.T.M. & H. (to 4.3.53.)
Dr. G.R. Holtby, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., D.I.H.
(from 31.10.53.)

2. Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:-

John A. Yates, M.I.Mun.E., M.S.I.A.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946.

Local Health Services under Part III.

Home Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting.

These are attended to by one District Nurse and one Health Visitor.

Infant Welfare Centre.

An Infant Welfare Centre is held on the second Thursday of each month in the Church Hall.

Other Treatment Centres.

A centre is established at the Secondary Modern School for :-

Dental Clinic	4 sessions weekly.
Speech Clinic	1 session weekly.
Minor Ailments Clinic	1 session weekly.

General Welfare Services are under the supervision of the Norfolk County Council's Local Welfare Officer, Mr. D.R. Ingham, whose office - established in the North Walsham Council Offices - is attended daily. 12 persons were admitted by the Welfare Officer to Chronic Sick Hospitals, County Homes and Mental Hospitals during the year.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service is administered from the Area Local Health Office, Aspland Road, Norwich and an average of 10 cases were assisted each week throughout the year. Applications for assistance are addressed to the Welfare Officer at his North Walsham Office. In addition to cases dealt with under this Service, the Welfare Officer was able to arrange for other cases to be assisted by obtaining Domestic Assistance Allowance from the National Assistance Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The maintenance of an adequate ambulance service is the liability of the Norfolk County Council. This duty is discharged through the St. John's Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society on substantially the same lines as those operating before the 5th July, 1948.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

These are carried out by General Medical Practitioners and by Assistant County Medical Officers.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Facilities for laboratory investigation are to be had at the Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. (SECTION 47)(Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.)

No action was taken under this Section during the year.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

Source. - All main water is pumped from under ground workings in chalk deposits at the Southern end of the Town, and is temporarily stored in two water towers before distribution.

Tests. - Three bacteriological examinations were made with highly satisfactory results. One chemical analysis was also satisfactory.,

Quality. - The chemical characteristics were almost exactly the same as in the previous year, and the Public Analyst pronounced the water as very suitable for drinking and general purposes.

Supply. - One obsolete tower of 25,000 gallons capacity was replaced during the course of the year by a modern higher level one of 175,000 gallons capacity. During the year two short main extensions were executed, and several properties having unsatisfactory private supplies were connected. Further a private supply main was connected from the Canning Factory directly with the Waterworks and all demands were adequately met.

SEWERAGE.

Further properties were connected to the sewer extensions completed last year, mainly superseding cesspool installations. Trade waste was accepted from the Steam Laundry, eliminating a nuisance in the Town Drain. The re-designed Disposal Works was formally opened by E.G. Gooch, Esq., M.P. during August and the improvement in the effluent discharged was at once apparent.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams - No action was taken beyond investigation of a drainage ditch, and the same was cleaned out.

Closet Accommodation - The provision of bathroom and water closet accommodation has again continued, several pail closets having been cummuted to the water carried system.

Night Soil Collection - This has been maintained so satisfactorily that at the end of the year 84 properties were being served.

Public Sanitary Accommodation - The present public conveniences were built for a temporary period of ten years, which has long since expired, and new up-to-date ones are desirable.

Disinfestation - The services of the Council's trained Rodent Operative have been continued. No serious infestations were met with and all were satisfactorily treated. It is interesting to note that the introduction of the new "Warfarin" method produced good results. Finally, all the Council's sewers, refuse tips and Sewage works were kept disinfested.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse. - This was executed satisfactorily during the year, one tip being closed, after being earth covered, and a new one close by being opened.

Salvage Collection. - This was not resumed during the year.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

No action was taken under Sec.11. of the Housing Act, 1936. Forty One Local Authority Houses were completed and Sixty Six were under construction by the end of the year. At the end of 1953 under all Housing Acts the Council had erected 389 houses. Tenders were received for 22 Old Persons Bungalows, but a start was not made during the year.

Private domestic building increased, probably due to relaxation of licencing procedure. Twelve private houses were completed and nine were under construction at the year's end also one conversion was completed.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

Routine visits are paid and advice given where necessary in connection with the Council's Bylaws for Clean Food made under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. No administrative difficulties have arisen.

Ice Cream sampling was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, all samples tested coming within provisional Grade 1.

The number of food premises registered under Section 24 of the Food & Drugs Act and the number of dairies registered under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949, were as follows:-

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	13
Premises registered for the sale of meat, sausages, preserved food, etc.	9
Registered dairies	14

The number of inspections of registered food premises were as follows:-

Of premises registered for the sale of ice cream	15
Of premises registered for the sale of meat, sausages, preserved food, etc.....	5
Of registered dairies	16

The method of disposal of condemned food is as follows:p

The condemned food is retained on the premises where condemnation has taken place until called for by the Council's refuse van, when it is taken to and destroyed on the Council's refuse tip.

Slaughterhouses. - There was one emergency slaughterhouse in the district which was little used. When necessary, inspections by the Sanitary Inspector, who holds the R.S.I. Meat and Foods Certification, were carried out therein.

SECTION F.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)

Scarlet Fever.	7	Acute Encephalitis	
Whooping Cough	103	Infectious	0
Polio-myelitis. Paralytic	1	Post Infectious	0
Non-Paralytic	0	Enteric or Typhoid	
Measles	3	Fever	0
Diphtheria	0	Paratyphoid Fever	0
Acute Pneumonia	0	Erysipelas	0
Dysentery	0	Meningococcal Infection	0
Smallpox	0	Food Poisoning	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Enteritis	0
Infective Hepatitis	2	Malaria	1

Diphtheria Immunisation.

IN AREA 1.

Age at 31.12.53. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1953.	1 1952.	2 1951.	3 1950.	4 1949.	5-9 1944-48.	10-14 1939-43.
No Immunisation	212	264	37	32	89	1421	373

Total - Children under 5 = 634. Children 5-14 = 1794

Total under 15 years of age = 2428.

Infectious Diseases.

Diphtheria. - There has again been no case of diphtheria in the district which is most satisfactory. This is the direct result of immunisation which has been well maintained in this Area.

Scarlet Fever. - There were 7 cases of Scarlet Fever during the year which all occurred in the first quarter of the year and no deaths were registered.

Whooping Cough. - There were 103 cases during the year:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
0 - 4 years	22	24
5 - 9 years	23	31
10 - 14 years	-	2
25 & over		1
	<u>45</u>	<u>58</u>

Infective Hepatitis. - There were two cases notified during the year. This disease - formerly known as Catarrhal Jaundice - is a fairly common and not usually very serious complaint which is notifiable in East Anglia where a special study of the disease is being made.

Poliomyelitis. - In the only case the degree of paralysis was slight and the late result has been very satisfactory. This disease is now thought to spread through the community in what is known as the "Narrow Stream of Infection" although the majority of the people infected show no signs of paralysis or, indeed, of any recognisable disease; nevertheless, isolation of contacts should be practised as far as is practicable and special attention should be paid to their personal hygiene, particularly the washing of the hands after the use of the toilet and before the handling of food.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following are the Mortality Rates :-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Mortality Rate - Nil per 1,000 population.
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis Mortality Rate - Nil per 1,000 population.

New Cases of Tuberculosis Notified during 1953.

Ages	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0 - 1 Years	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 "	-	-	-	-
5 - 10 "	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 "	-	-	-	-
15 - 20 "	-	-	-	-
20 - 25 "	1	-	-	-
25 - 35 "	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 "	-	-	-	-
45 - 65 "	-	-	-	-
65 yrs. and over.	-	-	-	-
Total;	1	-	-	-

Number of Cases of Tuberculosis on Register at 31st. December, 1953.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total.	
	Males.	Females	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females
31st Dec. 1953.	16	5	1	3	17	8
31st Dec. 1952.	12	5	1	3	13	8

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Part I. of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to the health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. on Register. (3)	Inspect- ions. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Occupier's prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.		21	30	-	-	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority.		44	46	-	-	
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by Local Authority. (excluding out-workers premises.		-	-	-	-	
Total		65	76	-	-	

2. CASES in which Defects were found.

Particulars. (1)	M/c Line No. (2)	Found. (3)	Remedied. (4)	Number of cases in which defects were found. Referred to H.M. by H.M. Inspect ors. (5) Inspect ors. (6)	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (7)	M/c Line No. (8)
Want of Cleanliness.						
Overcrowding.						
Unreasonable temperature.						
Inadequate Ventilation.						
Ineffective drainage to floors.						
Sanitary Conveniences.						
(a) Insufficient.						
(b) Unsuitable or defective.						
(c) Not separate for sexes.						
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).						
Total						

